

currently \$7.25 and the unemployment rate for North Carolina (not seasonally adjusted) is 11.1%, up from 10.9% in December 2009 (Employment Security Commission, 2010). The economy, employment and pay cuts have all attributed to the wage drop (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2009.). In larger counties in North Carolina average wages fell in Mecklenburg County by 1.1 percent. Wake County wages down by 0.7 percent, in Durham by 1.9 percent and Guilford County by .03 percent. On the other hand, smaller counties in North Carolina saw an increase in wages. Cumberland County wages grew by 2.1, Forsyth County by 1.2 percent and New Hanover County by 1.5 percent (Employment Security Commission of North Carolina, 2009). See table C9 for unemployment figures for all 100 counties in North Carolina.

The following are two tables with the top 10 counties with the highest and lowest unemployment rates as of December, 2009. These rates are not seasonally adjusted. I also listed the district offices unemployment rates.

**Table 11**

*Counties with the Highest and Lowest Unemployment Rates*

County	Highest Rate	County	Lowest Rate
Graham	17.6%	Orange	6.2%
Scotland	17.1%	Gates	6.7%
Rutherford	16.9%	Watauga	7.8%
Caldwell	16.7%	Chatham	7.9%
Edgecombe	16.7%	Durham	7.9%
Cherokee	15.5%	Camden	8.2%
Dare	15.5%	Onslow	8.2%
Cleveland	15.1%	Buncombe	8.3%